

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Apostolopoulos

Serial no. 09/352,227

Filed: July 13, 1999

For: BRIDGE PLATFORM

Art Unit: 3634

Examiner: A. Chen-Shue

Official
FAX RECEIVED
JUN 15 2000
GROUP 3600

DRAFT CLAIMS FOR INTERVIEW

Claim 21 (amended). In combination with a bridge having a deck and at least two spaced apart structural supports, a platform disposed below said bridge deck and attached to said bridge and extending along a portion of the bridge for supporting persons performing work on the bridge portion and for collecting debris resulting from the work, the platform comprising:

a) a plurality of cables extending along said bridge and between said structural supports and in spaced relation to each other and in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of said bridge deck;

b) means at each end of each of said cables for securing said cables to said bridge so that the plane of the cables is at a desired distance below the bridge portion, said cable securing means including at least one member clampingly connected to each of said structural supports, said cables secured at respective ends thereof to said clampingly connected members respectively;

c) a plurality of flooring sections each extending

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transversely of said cables and resting on said cables, said flooring sections arranged in side-by-side relation longitudinally of said cables; and

d) means for releasably securing said flooring sections to said cables, said releasably securing means including means defining eyelets on said flooring sections, said cables passing through respective ones of said eyelets on said flooring sections.

Claim 25 (amended). A method for supporting persons performing work on a portion of a bridge comprising installing a platform below a deck of the bridge and supporting the persons on the platform, the step of installing the platform comprising the sub-steps of:

a) clamping at least one member to each of a pair of spaced structural supports of the bridge, and securing ends of each of a plurality of cables to the clamped members respectively of the bridge so that the cables extend along the bridge between the structural supports in spaced relation to each other and in a plane substantially parallel to the bridge deck at a selected distance below the bridge portion;

b) resting on the cables a plurality of flooring sections so that the flooring sections extend transversely of the cables and are arranged in side-by-side relation longitudinally of the cables; and

d) releasably securing the flooring sections to the cables, said sub-step of releasably securing the flooring sections including attaching structure forming openable eyelets to the flooring sections, receiving the cables in the eyelets while the eyelets are open, and closing the eyelets.